



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Ridgecrest Field Office
300 South Richmond Road
Ridgecrest, CA 93555-4436
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CLOSURE ORDER

Notice is hereby given that effective March 11, 2003, the public lands located to the southwest from a point near the mouth of Furnace Creek canyon approximately 1.25 miles below the U.S. Forest Service boundary and 2.5 miles from Highway 264, are closed to the use of motorized or off-road vehicles. No person may use, drive, transport, park, let stand, or have charge or control over any motorized vehicle in the area located east of the closure signs and locked gate. Exemptions to this order may be granted to law enforcement and other emergency vehicles in the course of official duties and for other approved administrative activities performed by the Bureau of Land Management or U.S. Forest Service. Exemptions may also be granted to those persons involved with ranching activities associated with the Whitewolf Grazing Allotment.

The authority for this closure is found in 43 CFR Subparts 8341.2 (Special rules) and 8364.1 (Closure and restriction orders). Any person who violates this closure order may be subject to a fine, not to exceed \$1,000 and/or imprisonment not to exceed 12 months.

Exemptions to this closure include vehicles conducting official government business which shall be allowed on closed routes and areas as authorized. Official government business may include public service emergencies, resource monitoring/research, and management activities, and other actions authorized by BLM's Ridgecrest Field Office Manager and U.S. Forest Service District Ranger, White Mountain Ranger District.

This closure is issued for the purpose of providing interim protection of wetlands, riparian habitat and water quality associated with Furnace Creek located on federal lands within both the Inyo National Forest and public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management. Recent studies conducted by the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management revealed that motorized vehicle use in Furnace Creek Canyon was causing unacceptable adverse impact to wetlands, riparian habitat and water quality because the route of travel is located, in part within the stream and wetland environment of the canyon.

This closure will remain in effect until rescinded by the Ridgecrest Field Office Manager.

Hector A. Villalobos
Ridgecrest Field Office Manager
March 11, 2003